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EAST TIMOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE • Box 363 Clinton Station • Syracuse, New York 13201

September 24, 1982

Dr. Pinto Balsemao
Premier Ministro
Residencia Oficial
Sa Bento
1200 Lisboa PORTUGAL

Dear Mr. Prime Minister;

I am writing to you on behalf of the East Timor Human Rights Committee of the United Staes of America to express our encouragement for your governments actions regarding the situation in East Timor. The importance of your countries role concerning the Question of East Timor has always been very highly reagrded here in the United States. Our organization commends the steps which you have taken to provide the East Timorese people with the support and protection which they need. The East Timor Human Rights Committee urges that your government continue and increase its efforts on this matter.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to meet with the delegation from the Portuguese Parliament's Comissao Eventual Para Acompanhamento da Situacao em Timor Leste. During my meeting with them they informed me of their efforts to establish a unified policy on East Timor among the various Portuguese political parties. They also informed me of the efforts of President Ramalho Eanes and his special advisor, Madam Pintassilgo, on this matter. We urge you to support their efforts and to work with them toward establishing a more effective Portuguese government policy in order that the people of East Timor be assured of their protection and their rights.

In regard to this, our organization urges your government to consider sponsoring this years United Nations Resolution on the Question of East Timor. Your governments sponsorship of such a resolution would send a clear message to the international community that the Portuguese government considers the Question of East Timor an urgent matter.

I thank you for listening to the comments that we have to make. I can assure you that the sentiments we have expressed here are shared by many people around the United States. We are all looking toward the Portuguese government, as the internationally recognized sovereign of the territory of East Timor, to take firm steps to secure the rights and well-being of the people of that territory. We and many others have urged our own government to support the actions and policies of your government on this matter.

Again, our thanks for your consideration and concern.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Chamberlain,
Director-USA